

PROTESTANT ANTIDOTE

Or an Answer to a PAMPHLET, Entitled, *A seasonable Address*

to the Right Honourable the LORD MAYOR, &c. Touching the present Election of Sheriffs.

In a friendly Epistle to that worshipful Author, from his humble Servant Phil. Anglus Trueman.

Monsieur Philopatris Miso-patrie!

HAVING a months mind to give you a Bottle of Wine and wanting directions how to send to you by the *peny-Post*, I am forc'd to give you the Advertisement this way. The reason why I am so ambitious of your acquaintance is, because I fancy Thee to be a dvelish *pussy fellow*, a person of *Intrigue*, and *Politicks*; a man of *Brains* and *Forehead*, a *deep one* I'll warrant thee. Thou sayst indeed thou art a *Citizen*, but never trust me if I can tell how to believe thee; a *Citizen*? man! why thou Writest like any *Doctor*, Mr. Coleman (if he were alive, again) could not do it more cleverly; didst thou never Read his intended Declaration? There were *Sugar plum words* in abundance, and very kind expressions for the *Church of England* too, and yet you know (better perhaps than I) the design was to root out, that pestilent Heresie that has so long *domineer'd over the Northern World*. Therefore I am still apt to conceit thee, some Gentlemans *By-blow* at least, because thou art so complaisant and so much in the *fashion*, for alas! *Be-listering* of men is all the mode of late: *A Letter to Dr. Titus Oates*, *A Letter to the Earl of Shaftsbury*, *A Letter to the Duke of Monmouth*, and now a *Letter to the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Court of Aldermen, and Commoners of London*. And all these and an hundred more scandalous Pamphlets, smell strong of the same Ink, and wherein (if I mistake not) there is not a little *Gall* and *Roman Vitriol*; One may give a shrewd guess at the *work* by the *Forge* from whence it comes: Whoever you are, that are the *father* of the *Bawling* (which it appears you are *asham'd* at present to own) the late *Intelligence* about *Foster-lane* is said to be the *Man-midwife*. But to the matter.

You say *distempers much prevail in our Corporation*, and that 'tis high time to consider of an expedient to cure them. What these distempers are, or who occasions them I shall not inquire, but only observe that you seem to have a strong opinion of your own *Quackship*, who thus scatter your *Bills*, and obtrude your *Catholicons*, which yet perhaps like the universal *Medicines* of other *Empericks* will prove in the operation worse than the disease itself. As on the other side you shew but little *minuteness* and respect to his *Lordship* and that honorable body to which you boldly Address, whilst you suggest that they are either so *negligent* as never to consider of, or so *weak*, as not to know how to apply apt *Remedies* without your prescriptions and dictates; you advise us well to beware of the *Jesuits* delusions, but do you think we never heard a *Pick-pocket* cry, *stop this*? Though you have dress'd your self up like an *Angel of Light* in robes of pretended *Liberty*, and seeming zeal for the *establish'd Church*, yet your *elbow* foot, and the *mark of the Beast* appears now and then, and all your *Art* cannot conceal it, as when you cast a fainting Reflection on the discovery of that damnable *Plot*, which would utterly have destroyed that *Church*, which you pretend to be such a friend to: For you say, *these very many testimonies of it are now become highly esteemed through the follies of those that testified*. 'Tis a strange paradox how *follies* should create esteem, and we bless God, that even by that which you call *folliness*, it hath pleas'd the All wise God in a great measure hitherto, to defeat the subtleties of all the *Romish* *Achitophels*, and wonderfully to preserve the Sacred Life of our King and our Religion and properties from an inundation of *superstition* and *tyranny*.

Another place wherein your speech betrays you: Is, when you complain, that I know not who lately in *Authority* pursu'd *Popery* so hot that the very *Effigies* of our *Saviour* must be made *fuel*, &c. Suppose this true, did not a Father of the Church as much? Yes verily, *Epiphanius* in his Epistle to *John of Jerusalem*, Epist. 60. assures us, That he himself meeting with a *vail hanging at the door of a Church* and painted and having as it were the *Image of Christ* (for the very *effigies* that you talk of, pray tell us, who can draw? He cut it all to pieces; and was not this as bad as burning a *popish* *effigies*, though adorned with what the cozening superstitious Priest was pleas'd to call the *Effigies* of our Saviour? Nor is *Eusebius* less zealous against any such *Trumery*, in his Epistle to *Constantine* the Emperour, who sending to him for an *Image of Christ*, he thus roundly answers her:—*What Image do you require? such as may express the characters of his Divine Nature? surely you are instructed that no man hath thus seen the Son but the Father; do you require the Image of that form of a Servant, which he took? Then you must understand that this was join'd to the Glory of his Godhead, inasmuch that his Apostles could not behold the Glory of his sight in the Night, much more glorious, it is now having put off mortality, who is therefore able with weak and lifeless colours, and a shadow, to express those sparkling beams of so infinite a splendor?* Thus you see such *Effigies* were condemn'd by the *fanatics* (for so you'll call them) of the very primitive Ages, and do you come now as a *Church of England*—man to wheedle us with such exploded *Idolatries*? No, no, Sir! The *Church of England* is more pure and *Apostolical*.

But what is all this to the pretended subject of your Letter, The *Choice of Sheriffs*? Why, only to scatter a little *Popery* and blacken an active *Plot* *Prosecutor* by the by, against whom have been forg'd a thousand other lies and scandals. I confess the depending Election has made much noise, and outcries have been of *tumults*, *rabble*, and *faction*. But why, or on which side it lies, seems undetermined: If the right of Choice be in the *Common-Hall*, if they fairly Elect persons qualified by Law, is it not a symptom of *faction* or *turbulency* for any little unknown *pragmatick fellow* (as suppose your venerable self, Sir!) to Censure the body of the City as opposers of the present *Constitution of the Government*? If those that stand for the ancient *priviledges* and *customs* allow'd by *Charter* and confirm'd by many *Acts of Parliament*, who proceed regularly, and plead for nothing but known *usages* and approved *methods*, never heretofore contradicted, must be branded with *faction*, who are the good subjects,

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who the peaceable Citizens? Because you cannot have your unlawful lusts gratified must you presently sound the Trumpet of sedition. and cry out, *Why shall we permit our Adversaries thus to Triumph? let us stand up like men of Courage, &c.* Just as if you were going to Boxing? For my part I should think it rather blame worthy, if any few should obstinately refuse to acquiesce in the determination of a *Major Vote*, or should urge unusual *unpresidential* proceedings, and little Stratagems and shams, which should seem against common Right Equity, and reason, but whether any such thing have lately been offered by those you would be understood to complain of, is left to wiser judgments.

But you seem to object something against the persons of some of the *Candidates*; If they are not qualified, let the law reprobate them, but all you say, is by way of *fly Insinuation*, had you spoke plainly and proved any such matter, it had been worth consideration; now tis only *Rancour* and *Libel*.

I am not ignorant, tis buzz'd abroad, That one of them was nominated of the Council of State in the late times of confusion, and a list have been very industriously printed, concerning which having no personal knowledge of the Gentleman that seems to be aimed at, I cannot give so full an answer as might otherwise be done. But however there is so little in that objection, that any man of impartial sense may abundantly be satisfied that 'tis malicious and impertinent; for,

1. In the Act of free and general pardon indemnity and oblivion 12. Car. 2. Ca. 11th. *It is enacted for the reasons in the preamble thereof, viz. To the intent that no crime whatsoever should thereafter rise in judgment, or be brought in Question against any of the things Subjects (except such crimes and persons as are therein excepted) to the least endamagement of them, or to the prejudice of their reputations by any reproach or term of distinction, and to bury all seeds of future discord in the breast of his Majesty and in the breasts of all his Subjects one towards another &c. That all crimes misdemeanours, &c. be pardoned, released, Indemnified, discharged and put in utter oblivion. With a penalty therein upon any officer in any law Court, &c. that shall bes, disquiet or grieve any person, pardoned, and Indemnified by the said Act.*

From whence it appears that every person within mentioned (not exempted in the said Act) is as capable as any other of his Majesties Subjects to have his share in the Government and several of them have been since honoured, dignified and employed in eminent Affairs of State by his Majesties Special Election and choice, and consequently.

Quere. Whether the Printer and publisher of that paper called *The true list, &c.* And you Mr. Addresser, who are harping on the same string be not disturbers of the publick peace, and enemies to the quiet of his Majesties good Subjects?

2. The Printer or publisher of that paper, would perswade the Reader, that all those persons therein named had taken the Oath therein mentioned, which is most false and scandalous, for the Lord Fairfax never took that oath nor appeared at that Council, and General Monk was then in Scotland and could not appear to be sworn at that time, likewise Sir Thomas Widdrington, Sir Anthony Ashley-Cooper, Alderman Love, Mr. Bethel and others, of whom I challenge that Libeller or you Mr. Addresser, to prove that any one of them took that Oath, and if any body shall report such a thing and be not able to prove it, does he not deserve the name and punishment of a Libeller or Slanderer?

But the willful malice in the publisher of that paper is apparent in that the very Author from whom he taketh that list, viz. The continuation of *Baker's Chronicle*, Fol. 678. calls it only the names of the intended Counsellors of State, and ingenuously and truly acknowledges, that even a third part of them at least refused it, and were therefore not admitted to sit and act. All which this Libeller conceals purposely to promote a causeless scandal.

3. 'Tis well known, that Vice-Admiral Lawson (if he did take the Oath) appeared very faithful to the King after his Restauration, and lost his life in his Majesties service at sea, and why unless to serve some popish design, amuse people, and raise feuds and Animosities; should the Author of this paper now revive this story and so falsely represented, striving to infect the people with prejudices and slanders against diverse persons of worth and honest reputation?

In which design you Mr. Addresser, are likewise engaged, and tho your words are smoother than oil, yet the poison of asps seems to be in your heart, but the world is pretty well aware of your devices, you spit your venom but in vain: Let us therefore I beseech you, noble Sir, Injoy that Peace with you seem to recommend, Alarm not the Government and your Neighbors with needless fears and false representations of tumults and ill practices and designs where there are none; Forbear your slanders how many hundred real, sound, strict, and most obedient Sons of the Church of England have lately been stigmatiz'd with the title of *Fanatics*, merely because they stood up for their just, legal, civil rights and privileges as Citizens, and English-men. Whereas you say, *'tis not so easy to introduce Popery amongst us, as a Common-wealth*, I conceive tis both a false and seditious assertion, but accused be he and let his memory rot that designs either of them; and in spite of all your little dividing arts, I do not doubt but to see his Majesty long to continue great, dear, and glorious in the hearts of his Subjects, the Church of England to be supported with due Reverence, the Protestant Religion to flourish, prerogative, liberty, and property to be maintained according to Law, and Popery with all its plots and Abettors however mask'd or disguised to be (in these nations shortly, and throughout the world in Gods determined time) utterly confounded. To which he that does not cordially say Amen let him be Anathema.

POSTSCRIPT.

If the unknown Author of the sheet called the *Address* &c. shall within few days (as he promises) prove himself to the Right Honorable the Lord Mayor to be a Citizen and a Protestant Thereby Engage likewise to publish my name and openly beg his pardon for any thing wherein I may seem (through mistake) to have misrepresented him, and upon that Issue I leave it.

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